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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,744	08/30/2001	Sanaa Abdelhadi	AUS9-2001-0362-US1	9990

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Volel Emile
International Business Machines Corporation
Intellectual Property Law Department
11400 Burnet Road, Internal Zip 4054
Austin, TX 78758

EXAMINER

LEWIS, ADAM M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/942,744

Applicant(s)

ABDELHADI ET AL.

Examiner

Adam M. Lewis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19, 21-27, 29-31, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Outlook 2000 ("Microsoft", Microsoft Outlook 2000 SR-1 (9.0.0.4527)).

As per independent claim 1, Microsoft teaches a method for electronic messaging management, comprising the steps of:

displaying a message interface for composing and sending an electronic message (Microsoft, Figure 1);

receiving a first portion of the message in the message interface (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 3);

receiving, in the message interface, a first set of one or more recipients for the first portion (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 1);

receiving a second portion of the message in the message interface (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 6);

receiving, in the message interface, a second set of one or more recipients for the second portion (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 4); and

sending the message, wherein both the first and second portions are sent to the respective recipients responsive to a single send command (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 7). Allowing Outlook to send an individual message immediately is taught by Padwick ("Padwick", *Using Microsoft Outlook 2000*, ISBN 0789719096). To enable the immediate sending feature you must check a box in the settings menu. Disabling this feature allows the user to send multiple messages with a single send action. When the feature is disabled, each time the user hits "Send" on an individual mail message, the message moves to the outbox. Only when the user hits the "Send/Receive" button within Outlook itself does Outlook send all the messages in the outbox, therefore sending multiple messages with a single send action.

Independent claims 9 and 17 are similar in scope to claim 1, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Outlook teaches the method of claim 1, wherein displaying the message interface comprises the steps of:

displaying a first data entry area for the message (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 3);
and

displaying a second data entry area in the same message interface for receiving the second set of one or more recipients (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 4).

Dependent claims 10 and 18 are similar in scope to claim 2, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 2, Microsoft teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the second data entry area includes an area for receiving the message of the second message portion (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 6).

Dependent claims 11 and 19 are similar in scope to claim 3, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 2, Microsoft teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the second data entry area is displayed responsive to a certain user action sequence, the user action sequence comprising i) entering a certain combination on a data entry device, ii) selecting a menu item, using a pointing device, a data entry device, or a pointing device and data entry device combination, or iii) selecting an icon using a pointing device (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 8).

Dependent claims 13 and 21 are similar in scope to claim 5, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 1, Microsoft teaches the method of claim 1, comprising the step of receiving a selection of whether one of the message portions is to be sent exclusively to its own set of recipients, or is also to be sent to the set of recipients indicated for the other one of the message portions (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callouts 2 and 5). The recipients of each message may be copied and pasted into the "CC:" field of each others message, thereby sending each message to both sets of recipients.

Dependent claims 14 and 22 are similar in scope to claim 6, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 1, Microsoft teaches the method of claim 1, comprising the step of receiving a selection of whether one of the sets of recipients is to be sent an indication of the existence of the other one of the message portions (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callouts 2 and 5). By allowing the user to "CC:" the first message to the second set of recipients, the recipients are notified of the existence of the first message.

Dependent claims 15 and 23 are similar in scope to claim 7, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 8, which is dependent on claim 7, Microsoft teaches the method of claim 7, comprising the step of receiving a selection of whether one of the sets of recipients is to be sent the identity of the one or more recipients of the other one of the message portions (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callouts 2 and 5). Using the "CC:" feature in Microsoft Outlook provides the identities of those to whom the message was sent.

Dependent claims 16 and 24 are similar in scope to claim 8, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per independent claim 25, Microsoft teaches a method of sending an electronic message to two or more sets of recipients, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a first portion of an electronic message with a first set of one or more recipients (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 1);

associating a second portion of the electronic message with a second set of one or more recipients (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 4); and

sending the electronic message to the recipients, such that the first set of recipients receives the first portion of the electronic message and the second set of recipients receives the second portion of the electronic message (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callouts 9 and 10).

Independent claims 29 and 33 are similar in scope to claim 25, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 26, which is dependent on claim 25, Microsoft teaches the method of claim 25, wherein both the first and second portions of the electronic message are sent to the respective sets of recipients responsive to a single send command. Allowing Outlook to send an individual message immediately is taught by Padwick ("Padwick", *Using Microsoft Outlook 2000*, ISBN 0789719096). To enable the immediate sending feature you must check a box in the settings menu. Disabling this feature allows the user to send multiple messages with a single send action. When the feature is disabled, each time the user hits "Send" on an individual mail message, the message moves to the outbox. Only when the user hits the "Send/Receive" button within Outlook itself does Outlook send all the messages in the outbox, therefore sending multiple messages with a single send action.

Dependent claims 30 and 34 are similar in scope to claim 26 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 27, which is dependent on claim 25, Microsoft teaches the method of claim 25, wherein the step of associating of the first portion of the electronic message with the first set of one or more recipients comprises the step of receiving the first

portion of the electronic message in a first data entry area of a message interface (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 3), and the step of associating the second portion of the electronic message with the second set of one or more recipients comprises the step of receiving the second portion of the electronic message in a second data entry area of the message interface (Microsoft, Figure 1, Callout 6).

Dependent claims 31 and 35 are similar in scope to claim 27, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4, 12, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft in view of Tullis et al. ("Tullis," US# 5,802,314).

As per claim 4, which is dependent on claim 2, Microsoft fails to teach the method of claim 2, wherein the first and second message portions are both received in the first data entry area, the method comprising the step of:

receiving a selection of the second message portion in the first data entry area.

However, Tullis teaches importing message portions and allowing the user to individually select each message portion (Tullis, Fig. 7, col. 11, lines 33-45). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to use Tullis'

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message portion selection in Microsoft's message creation system because it would provide the user with more control over the format of their messages.

Dependent claims 12 and 20 are similar in scope to claim 4, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

5. Claims 28, 32, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft and Tullis as applied to claims 4, 12, and 20 above, and further in view of Tang et al. ("Tang," US# 5,630,060).

As per claim 28, which is dependent on claim 25, the invention of Microsoft and Tullis teaches the method of claim 25, wherein the first and second message portions are both received in a single data entry area and receiving a selection of the second message portion in the first data entry area. The invention of Microsoft and Tullis fails to teach the step of associating the second portion of the electronic message with the second set of one or more recipients.

However, Tang teaches a message delivery schedule being formed, which lists, for each recipient, the medium to be used and the message component to be delivered. The messages are then being delivered according to the delivery schedule (Tang, col. 2, lines 14-18). Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to include the message delivery system of Tang in the message generation system of Microsoft and Tullis because it would increase accuracy by allowing the user ensure they are sending specific portions of a message to specific recipients.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Stockwell et al. (US# 6,072,942) teaches a system and method of electronic mail filtering using interconnected nodes.

Haury (US# 6,128,647) teaches a self configuring peer to peer inter process messaging system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam M. Lewis whose telephone number is 703-305-0720. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:00-4:30, Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100